

PLAIN TALKS

April
1982



MAIL BOX

THE COVER

The view of Edison Plaza featured on the cover is the one perhaps most familiar to those who work in the corporate headquarters. It shows the angle that has the covered walkway leading into the building.

To most passersby, however, the rounded portion of the building is most familiar.

At last count, 1,189 employees were based in the building.

A related story, focusing on the building's employee cafeteria, is featured on pages 10 and 11.

Roberta Plant
Gulf States Utilities
Conroe, Texas
Dear Mrs. Plant:

On behalf of the Education Service Center, Region VI, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for taking the time to prepare and present the workshop at the Madison-Leon County In-Service Workshop in Madisonville, Texas. Overall, the workshops were well attended and the evaluations were quite favorable.

We have received many letters and phone calls praising the in-service and proclaiming its success and we feel that you deserve to share the praise.

I sincerely appreciate your significant contribution to the success of this in-service and anticipate your future participation.

Sincerely,
Pete A. Sanchez
In-service coordinator
Education Service Center

Supervisor-Consumer Services
Gulf States Utilities
Beaumont, Texas
Dear Sir:

On February 11, Sandra Gaspard carried out an energy audit on my home. Yesterday I received her report. I wish to express my gratitude for this

service and convey my respect for the professionalism and expertise with which Miss Gaspard carried out the audit. She is a credit to Gulf States Utilities. It is a shame that service and publicity of this nature does not reach the public more often.

The suggestions and recommendation of Miss Gaspard will be instrumental in lowering my utilities this coming year.

Sincerely,
Nick A. Baxter, Ph.D.

Connie Calfee
Gulf States Utilities
Conroe, Texas
Dear Ms. Calfee,

Thank you for coming to our Girl Scout meeting. We really enjoyed your talk and movie. We thought it was very interesting. We liked the coal box, too.

Thank you for the pencils and booklets. The booklet is interesting.

Sincerely,
Girl Scout Troop 891

Karen Landry
Dick Krouse
Gulf States Utilities
Lafayette, La.

Dear Dick and Karen:

Just a note to thank you all for giving the program at Kiwanis on Thursday. It was an excellent job and I have heard many favorable comments.

I realize that this is one of the services of GSU, but it takes good people to put it over.

Again, thank you for your time, and don't forget the invitation to tour the mine.

Sincerely,
Lester L. Jay
Plant Manager
International Salt Company

PLAIN TALKS

Volume 62
April 1982

Number 3

Published 10 times yearly for employees and annuitants of Gulf States Utilities Company. Produced within the Public Affairs Department, Fred C. Repper, vice president, by the Communications Department, Henry Joyner, manager. Address all communications to Editor, PLAIN TALKS, Gulf States Utilities Company, P. O. Box 2951, Beaumont, Texas 77704, Phone (713) 838-6631.

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-79) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Issue to feature GSU graduates

High school and college graduates whose parents or grandparents are GSU employees or retirees, as well as GSUers themselves and their spouses who complete a college degree, will be featured in a special picture section of a summer issue of *Plain Talks*.

Pictures — preferably black and white, head-to-shoulder shots — should be submitted no later than Friday, May 28. Color photographs may be submitted if no others are available. Each picture should be labeled with the graduate's name, school and relationship to a GSU employee. Pictures will be returned after publication upon the request of the sender.

Pictures of graduates should be sent to *Plain Talks*, Edison Plaza-8th floor, in Beaumont.



Oak Ridge Plaza observes 1st year

The employees at GSU's Oak Ridge Plaza local office celebrated their first anniversary March 19.

Among those sharing the "birthday" cake were (from left to right) Susan Choate, customer contact clerk; Barbara Welsh, section head; and Myra Cline, local office clerk.

The company's newest local office is located in a shopping center off Interstate 45 between Houston and Conroe. It serves The Woodlands development.



Walker receives \$100 check

James E. Walker, Conroe storeroom assistant, was a winner in the Employee Suggestion Program with his proposal to test and drain oil from junked transformers.

Shown presenting the \$100 check to Walker (at left) is Leroy Courville, storeroom supervisor. The date of the presentation coincided with Walker's first-year anniversary with the company.

Investments given for Thrift Plan

Investments made by the Thrift Plan trustee during March 1982, covering employee contributions through February 1982, included the purchase of 16,929 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$205,264.19. The average cost per share was \$12.125.

The trustee also deposited \$196,144.35 in savings with First Security Bank of Beaumont and \$27,014 in guaranteed fixed income fund with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

New unit joins system fleet

The system fleet of equipment was beefed up with the recent addition of a 120-foot trailer mounted aerial basket, reported Gary Nicholas, fleet administrator, System Operations.

The basket, which will hold two linemen, provides a maximum working height of 125 feet. According to Nicholas, the unit,

which is designed for working barehanded with 500 kilovolt lines, will enable linemen to reach 98.78 percent of all existing towers. It would enable them to reach all future towers.

Nicholas explained that the unit features a corona ring that makes an umbrella shield which provides a 360-degree radius working area at arm's length with full protection.

Although the unit was delivered Jan. 5, it is planned to go into service in April in the Port Arthur Division. As with all system equipment, the unit will be reassigned to other divisions as needed.



Until the company purchased the new unit, the tallest aerial basket reached only 70 feet.

Other items available in the system equipment fleet are a Wood Tiger with a 15,000-pound digger derrick, a Wood Tiger Cub with an 8,000-pound digger derrick, a bulldozer, an infra-red camera for detecting hot spots at substations and along transmission lines and an insulated power sprayer/washer.

Civic groups honor Hayes

Two Calcasieu Parish civic groups have honored George Hayes, a serviceman-1st class in the Sulphur district office, for having saved the life of a woman last July.

Hayes, a 24-year GSU employee, had already received a President's Lifesaving Award on Dec. 11 from GSU President Norman Lee.

NEWS BRIEFS



On Jan. 27, the Calcasieu Area Safety Council presented Hayes with a "Flame of Life Award." Hayes is shown holding that plaque. He was then cited by the Sulphur Rotary Club in a special ceremony on Feb. 3.

Hayes earned the three commendations for action he took last summer after a woman had passed out in her home. As Hayes was checking meters in the neighborhood, two of the woman's children asked him for help. He followed them to their home, where he discovered the woman, who had been injured in a car accident a few months before, lying on the floor unconscious and not breathing.

Hayes immediately cleared the woman's air passage and administered CPR.

GSUers help weatherize home

In late March, GSUers in the Western Division assisted the Conroe Kiwanis Club in weatherizing the home of a senior citizen. At least 12 such homes are expected to be weatherized during the year.

According to Connie Calfee, consumer information coordinator, the project is designed to help senior citizens with limited resources make their homes more energy efficient.



Shown in the photograph with Calfee (at left) is Kiwanian Al York. They are placing insulation in the cracks.

The Kiwanis chapter has allocated \$50 per house for the project. GSU also helped select the homes to be weatherized. The project was limited to low-income elderly homeowners.

GSU employees donate blood



Judging from the expression on the face of Kathy Robinette, donating blood doesn't hurt a bit. Shown with Robinette is Linda Adjent, a nurse.

Robinette was among 495 Gulf Staters listed in this year's blood drive in the Baton Rouge Division. Collections totaled 298 pints of blood.

Each year, Our Lady of the Lake Hospital sends its portable blood bank to various division offices. Donors, their spouses, both sets of parents and any dependent children are allowed unlimited withdrawals from the blood bank in times of illness.

GSUers serving on the blood drive committee are Floyd Gonzales, Seigle Hunstock, Ben Campo and John Stewart.

Bell hosts Lloyd Bentsen

Second-term U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen visited Woodville Monday, March 29 at the invitation of Wyatt Bell, superintendent of GSU's Woodville office.

Bentsen's appearance in Woodville coincided with the week-long Dogwood Festival



celebration. In the photograph, Bentsen (at left) is shown accepting an official Dogwood Book from Bell.

Richard East's Run for the Money

by Ilene Harral

An aching ankle and pouring rain haven't dampened Richard East's enthusiasm for running, and the adversities haven't even slowed his pace much. The 46-year-old runner says he will compete in the Boston Marathon April 19, even though the tendons in his left ankle were injured during his recent much-publicized "Run Across Louisiana."

To the press covering East's run, the 25-year GSU veteran emerged a hero, albeit a limping one. His run was a marathon attempt to raise \$10,000 for the International Summer Special Olympics Games, to be held at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge July 12-18, 1983. "I just wanted to help in some way," East says.

He helped \$12,000 worth, which is the sum he netted from his run in early February. His goal was to raise \$10,000.

The Special Olympics East wanted to help are held every four years to give mentally retarded children the chance to know the thrill of organized athletic competition. The Baton Rouge Gas Department serviceman says 4,000 athletes and 5,000 volunteers are expected at the 1983 competition. With his fund-raising run, East already has set an Olympian example for the children who will compete.

His itinerary called for him to leave the Texas border Friday, Jan. 29, and run across Louisiana until he reached New Orleans. There, he planned to top off his run by competing in the Mardi Gras Marathon which would take him the rest of the way across the state, to the Mississippi border.

Circumstances, however, have a way of changing even a dedicated runner's plans. The third day of the run found East in the emergency room in Opelousas. "My ankle was swollen; the



Brad Badeaux gets ready to go, while East offers advice.

tendons were infected," East recalls. "The doctor said I should not run."

But East had a shot, a bout with a whirlpool and then took off again. "When you get into something like this, you can't quit until you just have to," East says.

His run wasn't interrupted again until state police made him stop during an intense thunderstorm. Safety won out. "I didn't mind the rain and cold, but the thunder and lightning scared me," he says. He ran an extra 10 miles the next day in Baton Rouge to make up for riding awhile with the troopers.

By then, he was adjusting to the pace. East has been running for three years and has completed two marathons. Still, runners are entitled to get tired, too.

"On the first day, I was tired. The second day, I was very tired. And the third day, I was exhausted. The fourth day, my body started adjusting, and the fifth and sixth days weren't that bad," East explains.

But his ankle thwarted his plans to cross the state. "I was 74 miles from Mississippi when my ankle went out." His swollen foot was pictured in a newspaper, and his limping was sympathetically

described. East says another runner, Bob French of Baton Rouge, substituted for him in the final part of the run.

Now that he's preparing for the Boston Marathon, East is running "only" 75-80 miles a week. A still-sensitive ankle is keeping him from his usual 80-100 miles weekly when preparing for a marathon.

Although he says he has never experienced a runner's high (when the runner reaches a blissful state of well-being while running), East says he has experienced "hitting the wall."

He says that sensation occurs after running "about 18 to 26 miles. Your legs get like lead, and your body aches all over. It's agony. You can't explain it, you have to experience it."

East says he doesn't expect to hit the wall during the Boston run. It seems apparent, though, that it would take more than that to stop him from crossing the finish line.

Dateline/Silsbee...



Robert Sheffield points to the old icehouse sign.

The sign above the old icehouse in Silsbee proclaims "Gulf States Utilities — A Dependable Public Servant."

And Robert Sheffield, superintendent of the Northern District of Beaumont Division, explains that the placement of those words above a very prominent "Ice" announcement is symbolic of an earlier time when electricity was only a byproduct for GSU.

Since the icehouse recently went out of business, Sheffield persuaded owner Newt Hopkins to donate the old sign to the Beaumont Line Department coffee shop, which displays utility company relics.

Gulf States has had an office in Silsbee for as long as Sheffield can remember. A native of Woodville, which also falls within the bounds of Northern District jurisdiction, Sheffield has served as superintendent since August 1972. He left for a brief stint as Beaumont superintendent a couple of years ago, but opted to return to Silsbee because he

missed the warmer small-town atmosphere.

Even so, the district is now in a period of moderate growth, following "very fast growth" for a number of years, Sheffield reveals. With 12,331 customers in all classes, the Silsbee office is staffed with four clerks, three meter readers, one collector, three servicemen, two consumer service representatives, two supervisors and Sheffield. The remainder of the 26 employees based in Silsbee operate out of the Line Department. In addition, 17 employees are based in Woodville and two are based in Kountze.

In a few years, Sheffield predicts, that growth will require the company "to relocate our Silsbee office." Sheffield would like to see the service center and the local office on a single site offering expanded parking facilities for customers and employees.

Eight Satellite Libraries

by Karen McConnell
Corporate Librarian

The company's library resources are enhanced by eight satellite libraries, seven of which are also located in Edison Plaza.

Although each of the smaller, more specialized libraries is governed and budgeted by its own department, each also receives support services from the Corporate Library. Only the River Bend site library is located outside the company's new headquarters. The remaining libraries are Computer-Edison Plaza 12, Engineering-Edison Plaza 5, Nuclear-Edison Plaza 2, Power Plant Engineering and Design-Edison Plaza 3, Tax-Edison Plaza 14, Finance-Edison Plaza 16 and Legal-Edison Plaza 11.

Data Base Review

Tech-net is a multi-faceted data retrieval system used to satisfy requirements in the areas of vendor product data, government specifications and standards and industry codes and standards. An outstanding feature of Tech-net is its ability to cross-reference any of the data files by means of the locator code. The code relates a document to a specific group of products or subjects.

Other features of Tech-net include its ability to perform multiple searches and to retrieve needed information, such as vendor sales office locations, on-line without referring to micro-film.

New Books

Who Killed Karen Silkwood?
by Howard Kohn. Summit Books, 1981.

Coal Handbook, by Robert E. Meyers. Dekker, 1981.

Alternatives to Regulation, by Michael S. Baram. Lexington, 1982.

A Dictionary of Energy, by Martin Counihan. Routledge, 1981.

Availability Analysis: A Guide to Efficient Energy Use, by Michael J. Moran. Prentice-Hall, 1982.

The Fine Art of Interviewing, by James G. Goodale. Prentice-Hall, 1982.

Robert Peters: Retiree Copes with Handicap

When Robert Peters donned his cap and gown at Lamar University last December, it meant that he was finally receiving a degree in industrial sociology after college enrollment that spanned 33 years.

But Peters, 51, had even more reason to be proud of his accomplishment. Legally blind, Peters is a diabetic whose sight is slowly being stolen by retinopathy. "It's kind of like splashing white-out on a printed page — portions of my vision are just missing," he explained.

First predicted by his physician in 1977, the gradual loss of his sight forced Peters to end his 25½-year Gulf States career with medical retirement in April 1979.

But instead of bemoaning his fate, the former section head in Engineering Design and Construction decided to tackle other challenges. "After retiring from Gulf States, I realized I still had a job left unfinished — plenty of hours earned at Lamar before the Korean War, but no degree. I've got it wrapped up now."

In the classroom, Peters taped all lectures, then often took his examinations orally.

Although Peters would like to earn a master's degree in psychology — he has already earned 17 graduate hours — he conceded that he will probably never apply his knowledge on a regular paying job. A diabetic since he was 28, he has other medical problems besides his vision difficulties. "I've done a lot of volunteer work and I'll probably continue with that," he predicted. While at Lamar, he attended sessions of a handicapped student club dubbed the "Freebirds." He may also assist with a volunteer Beaumont group geared to counseling troubled persons with no other place to turn for help, he added.

His favorite activity, however, is his work as deputy commander of the 11th Air Group, Civil Air Patrol, Texas Wing. Fascinated by studies on human motivation and training people, Roberts will research the possibilities of converting printed training material into audio tapes.

"Most of our volunteers get tons of printed materials for instruction, and it's easy to become baffled by such an accumulation. Video and audio tapes have come of age, and I've found that our trainees learn much faster when studying by tape. Besides, not all volunteers can attend the meetings — we can simply mail the tapes and the volunteer can tape his questions on the blank side and send it back," Peters said.

"Studying how groups of people react to a situation — it's a science," he continued. "The subject of motivation intrigues me, since I work with a lot of volunteers from the Red Cross and Civil Defense. I feel like I'm better prepared to work with them now. A formal education is something that shouldn't be ignored lightly. An individual can get through most job situations without one, but it's so much easier with a little training.

Looking back, I could have done a better job in the past 30 years, with a little more education," he philosophized.

Peters, who began his company career in drafting, then progressed to engineering assistant and section head, still likes to stay in touch with his former co-workers. He pays frequent visits to both his old department and Human Resources. He also sometimes attends Sideliners Club meetings.

The biggest hindrance to Peters is "my lack of mobility," he sighed. "I can't drive. You feel like you can do these things, but you could actually wind up hurting somebody."

Peters took the bus from west Beaumont to Lamar for almost two years, a ride complicated somewhat by a downtown switch-over. He still relies on the bus system for much of his traveling, and his daughter Becky Rabb, a Beaumont schoolteacher, frequently chauffeurs him about town.

For the most part, however, Peters is uncomplaining — despite his blindness, despite his lack of mobility and despite the fact that his wife died last August.



Peters visits former co-worker Howard Gale, section head-Transmission and Substation Engineering, Louisiana projects.

Louisiana Youths Observe N.E.E.D.

Consumer Services employees from Lake Charles, Lafayette and Baton Rouge helped high school students from throughout south Louisiana observe National Energy Education Day (N.E.E.D.) on March 19.

In Lake Charles, however, 22 students from Calcasieu and Jefferson Davis parishes held their main observance on Tuesday, March 16.

According to Jane Dufrene, Lake Charles consumer information coordinator, one high school student from each school in those two parishes toured Nelson 6 that morning, then gathered at the Lake Charles Civic Center that afternoon for a special ceremony that culminated in the release of helium balloons. Each student released a single balloon containing an energy slogan on a sheet of paper, as well as a return postcard for the recipients to share their energy thoughts.

In Lafayette, senior representatives from 10 area high schools buried an energy time capsule containing information on the current energy situation as well as comments made by second graders.

Karen Landry, consumer information coordinator in Lafayette, reported that the seniors collected current utility bills, gasoline price listings, news stories and magazine articles about the energy situation. Such information, along with the results of a school energy survey and a tape recording of students' views about energy, was buried in the March 19 ceremony.

Buried at the Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium, the capsule will remain in place until 1992, when now-second-graders will dig it up to compare the information with their energy situation.

Both second graders and seniors attended the ceremony, represen-

ing Lafayette High, Comeaux High, Acadiana High, Carencro High, Breaux Bridge High, Morrow High, Arnaudville High, Port Barre High, Crowley High and Church Point High. Also represented were Truman Elementary, Morrow Elementary, Church Point Elementary, Breaux Bridge Elementary, Arnaudville Elementary, Ross Elementary, Carencro Heights Elementary and Port Barre Elementary.

Students of Baton Rouge High School, assisted by Lydia Brown, consumer information coordinator and state N.E.E.D. coordinator, also buried a time capsule on March 19.

Denise Creehan, a senior at Baton Rouge High and regional director of N.E.E.D., was responsible for coordinating activities in 20 area schools.

The Baton Rouge time capsule contained a dedication to N.E.E.D., current newspaper

articles relating to energy, electricity and gas bills for 1982 and predictions for future bills, as well as a variety of brochures on energy. In 1992, the seniors will return to uncover the time capsule during their 10-year reunion.

The N.E.E.D. project was created in 1980 to underscore the importance of energy education for all of America's youth. It is a 10-year program for the 1980s, launched initially by a joint Congressional resolution which designated the third Friday in March as "National Energy Education Day."

Its goals are to promote the development of comprehensive and realistic energy education programs in all of the nation's schools and to foster student leadership skills and student participation in energy education programs.

All state, regional and local N.E.E.D. programs are organized and implemented by students.



Karen Landry (center), Lafayette employee.



The Baton Rouge time capsule was ready for burial.



In Lake Charles, it's up, up and away as high school students release energy messages enclosed in helium balloons.

What's

In Edison Plaza's new cafeteria, the menu cou

By 5:30 a.m., at least half of the 15-member Saga Corp. food service staff is at work. Not much later, Ella Mae McCarty, head baker, is whipping up a coconut cream pie filling for lunch. Others are preparing salads and entrees for the lunch crowd that will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in Edison Plaza cafeteria.

But at 6:30 a.m., Loicy Jones, grill cook, is at her post, frying or scrambling eggs to order and dishing up bacon, sausage, pancakes, grits, homemade sweet rolls and giant biscuits — whatever her customers order. Breakfast is served until 7:45 a.m.

The scene is repeated each weekday, although the Houston-

based food service company offers breakfast and luncheon specials each day, in addition to the regular offerings. For instance, one week the breakfast specials included steak and eggs and breakfast tacos. Luncheon specials frequently include seafood, a favorite for Gulf Staters, reports Clynn Whitworth, Edison Plaza cafeteria manager. Whitworth has headed the facility since March, when he left his three-year post as Saga's cafeteria manager at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.

Even though the cafeteria features some of the most appetizing prices in town for equally mouth-watering food, the facility is open only to Gulf

Staters and their guests.

Whitworth estimates that about 70 percent of the Edison Plaza population — 1,189 Gulf Staters are based in the new headquarters — lunches in the cafeteria. About 150 eat breakfast in the facility, which has a seating capacity of 280. The total number of seats includes those in two small dining rooms reserved for training groups and other special gatherings.

Diners can view downtown Beaumont through the full-length windows, but the interior view is almost as fascinating. Stainless-steel serving areas gleam in the cafeteria. In the dining area, plants and standing panels enhance the scenery. Behind the



Ella Mae McCarty whips up a coconut cream pie filling for dessert.



Loicy Jones, grill cook, hands a plate over a six-foot-long poor boy sandwich that was featured one day.

Cooking?

feature anything from breakfast tacos to prime rib.

scenes, a huge kitchen, complete with giant-size mixer and freezer, is used to prepare the food.

The "scramble" design of the cafeteria hastens service during the busiest part of the lunch break, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Patrons split into separate serving lines for salads, sandwiches or hot foods, as well as two beverage serving areas.

Whitworth, who has been in the food service business since he was 16, admits that there is a knack to satisfying a large number of diners daily. To begin with, he keeps "very accurate counts" of how many eat every day and what they selected — the cash registers record such data. If an item does not sell well, he simply eliminates

it from the menu.

For instance, the cafeteria served Shrimp Newburg in a potato shell a couple of times and, although most samplers agreed the dish was tasty, it just did not have widespread appeal. It won't be offered again. On the other hand, Whitworth noticed that vegetables were always big sellers, so he began offering an all-vegetable plate recently. He notes, "Whenever possible, we try to use fresh fruit and vegetables rather than canned or frozen ones, and the customers really appreciate that."

Before the year is over, Whitworth hopes to institute a once-weekly or once-monthly gourmet item. Shortly after the

cafeteria opened, prime rib was served. Although the price was considerably higher than other menu offerings, there were some Gulf Staters who were willing to pay more for the top-quality beef.

Factors other than appetite can affect the number of customers lining up in the cafeteria. "If the weather is bad, we're more apt to have a larger crowd," Whitworth reveals.

"And the Monday after payday is very heavy, but on payday, lots of people go to the bank on their lunch hour," he adds.

Whitworth says that, on the whole, he has been pleased with cafeteria operations.

"Our only feedback has been positive," he insists.



Clynn Whitworth (right) assists cashier Diane Wagner as she checks out a line of breakfast customers.



Frances Thibodeaux, dubbed the "salad lady" by customers, prepares one lunchtime offering for the salad bar.

SERVICE AWARDS

40
years



Stanley E. Davis
Plant Production
Louisiana Station



E. H. Nevils
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Archie L. Whitson Jr.
System Production
Beaumont

30
years



Harry O. Breeden
Plant Production
Louisiana Station



John W. Jackson
Electric T&D
Conroe



Ike Simms Jr.
Building Services
Beaumont



Thomas R. Whiddon
Executive Department
Beaumont



Jerry Fryer
Electric T&D
Conroe



Charles E. Lucas
Plant Production
Louisiana Station

20
years



Paul L. Granger
Electric T&D
Lafayette



Garland J. Lege
Electric T&D
Lafayette



Charles C. Petry
Plant Production
Sabine Station



Johnnie L. Reed
Plant Production
Sabine Station

10
years



David Thomas
Division Accounting
Orange



Guerry W. Weathers
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Kelton R. Whitehead
Materials Management
Baton Rouge



Stephen S. Williams
Electric T&D
Orange



Keith C. Sanders
Plant Production
Sabine Station



Vickie T. Buhler
Plant Production
Louisiana Station



Chris H. Menzel
Power Plant
Engineering
Beaumont

RETIREE UPDATE

Retirees gather in Baton Rouge

About 82 members and guests of the Baton Rouge Division Retirees Club gathered for a Feb. 10 jambalaya dinner. Cooks for the event were Calvin Comeaux and Seigel Hunstock, two GSU employees.

The group heard a report from Dewey Lytle, operating superintendent for Transmission and Distribution, Baton Rouge Division. Lytle reported that an employee and retiree recreation center on O'Neal Lane is nearing completion and the picnic area is already complete.

During the session, D. V. Garon was appointed *Plain Talks* correspondent for the group.



Austin ends 34-year career

When Marion "Red" Austin ended his 34-year career with Gulf States, the serviceman-1st class was honored by his co-workers at the Gas Department as well as by members of his prayer meeting group.

Both groups presented him with plaques commemorating his retirement.

According to correspondent Ronald J. Bordelon, Austin's retirement was effective April 1. He began work for the company on March 15, 1948.



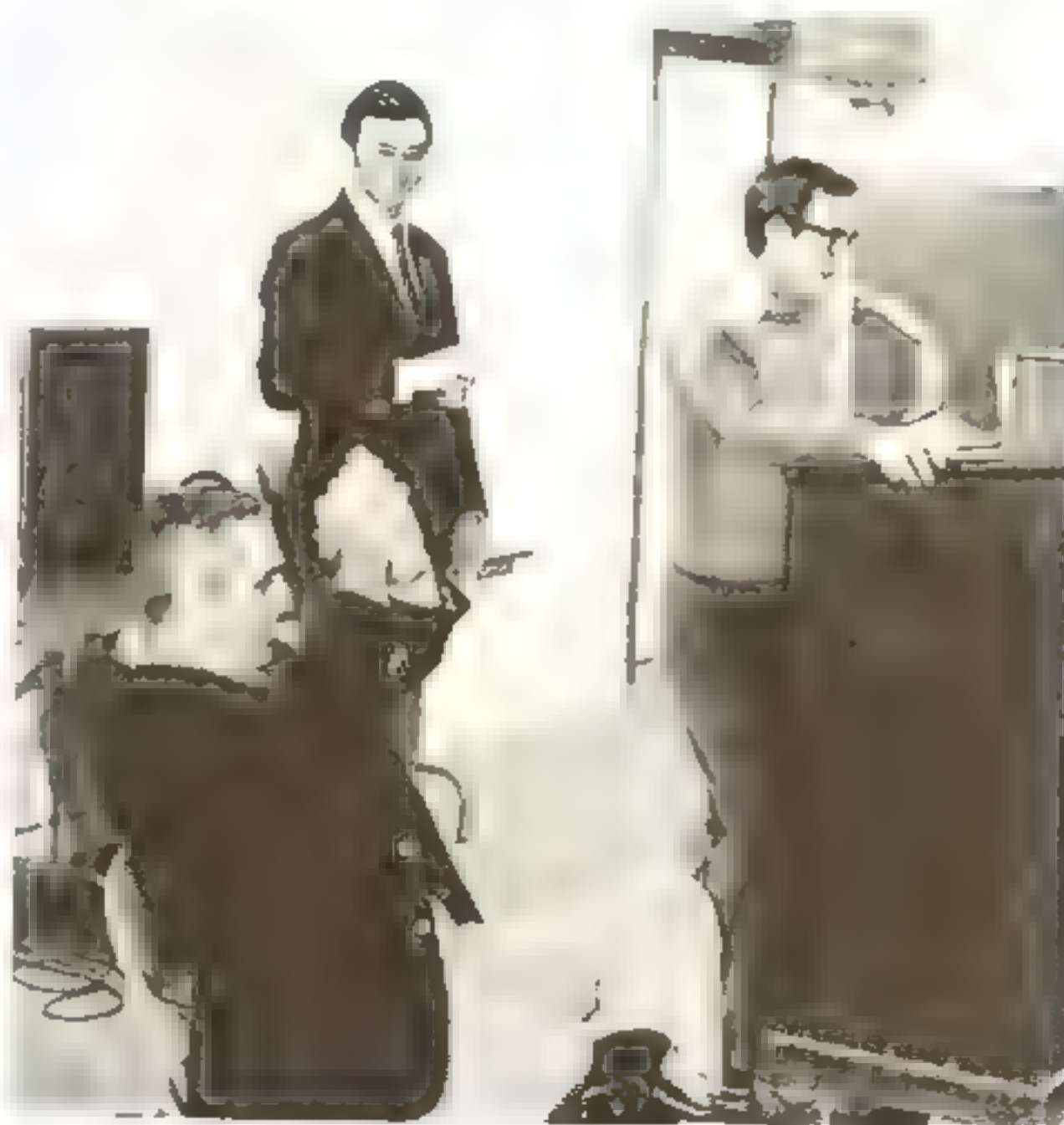
Gautreaux leaves power plant

Russel R. Gautreaux retired from his position at Louisiana Station on March 1.

A 31-year veteran of the company, Gautreaux began his career with the company at the power plant.

During a Feb. 26 retirement party in his honor, Gautreaux was given a gift of money, a rod and reel and an ice chest.

He is pictured in the middle, flanked by co-workers Alonzo Sandifer (at left) and J. Cifereo.



Parties honor Joe Fontana

When Joe Fontana ended his 30-year career with Gulf States, co-workers hosted two retirement parties for the administrative assistant in Accounting in Beaumont.

On Feb. 25, 125 persons attended a barbecue dinner at Neches Station, where Fontana was "roasted" by some of those attending. The following day, a more formal retirement party

was given in the Edison Plaza cafeteria.

Fontana, who holds a bachelor of business administration degree from Loyola University, revealed that he plans to "relax and travel." His retirement, which became effective March 1, prompted co-workers to present Fontana with a \$400 check and a \$50 bill.

Shown in the photograph with an exultant Fontana (seated) are Bobby Joe Willis (shown at the microphone) and Mickey Wilson.

Nine retire on March 1

Among those retiring March 1 were Guy S. Ayell, mechanical meter foreman at Louisiana Station; Franklin L. Kirkpatrick, mechanic-1st class at the Beaumont Service Center; George Blackwell, painter at Louisiana Station; Daniel D. Dunn, equipment operator at Willow Glen Station; and Joseph Fontana, administrative assistant in Beaumont.

Also retiring were Artis Foreman, equipment operator at Sabine Station; Russel R. Gautreaux, electrician-1st class at Louisiana Station; Gordon L. Hatchell, serviceman-1st class in Denham Springs; and James E. Peveto, equipment operator at Sabine Station.

Austin, Lang to retire

Those planning to retire April 1 include Marion D. Austin of Greenwell Springs, La. and Willis T. Lang of DeRidder, La.

Austin is a serviceman-1st class with the Gas Department in Baton Rouge and Lang is a foreman with the T&D Line Department at the Beaumont Service Center.



Karaff receives scouting award

Dale Karaff's youngest son, Chris, recently received his Eagle Scout award, becoming the second of the three Karaff sons to attain that rank.

Chris' dad is general maintenance supervisor at Neches Station, and his middle brother, Kevin, was a parttime GSU employee in Office Services during the Edison Plaza move.

Shown during the presentation ceremony are (from left to right) Chris, Dale, his mom, Betty, and Kevin.



Lafayette hosts party, too

Lafayette employees didn't forget to hold their Christmas party — *Plain Talks* accidentally overlooked their photographs.

Three Lafayette employees are shown enjoying punch and conversation during the December festivity for the district office.

Sticker runs in marathon

Maurice Sticker, a new Gulf States employee who has been running for almost two years, was to be among those at the starting mark for the Boston Marathon on April 19.

The environmental analyst in Power Plant Engineering and Design routinely runs 80 miles per week. He and his wife Terry make their home in Beaumont's West End — and Sticker even makes a run from his house to Edison Plaza each morning and back again each evening.



Kressman wins golf tourney

Young Ross Kressman of Bridge City won first place in the 4A-3A Port Arthur Independent School District Golf Tournament held at Zaharias Memorial golf course in February.

Ross, the son of GSU employee Fred Kressman, fired a five over par 77 during his 18-hole trip.

The elder Kressman is a control operations foreman at Sabine Station.

Young man dies in Lake Charles

Beaumont employee, 18-year-old Keith Robertson, drowned March 21 while swimming in Lake Charles.

Robertson, who was hired last Aug. 17, was a helper in the T&D Department at the Beaumont service center.

He was a native of Beaumont.

Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Robertson of Beaumont; four sisters, Robin Robertson Lee, Melinda Robertson, Hope Robertson and Holly Robertson, all of Beaumont; four brothers, Elmore Robertson Jr. of Germany, Darrell Robertson of Fort Riley, Kan., Kirby Robertson and Clarence Robertson, both of Beaumont.

GSUers pursue purse-snatcher

Neither Ramona Moran nor Reynelle Holladay thought it was a good April Fool's joke when a teenaged purse-snatcher fled with Reynelle's wallet on April 1.

The two Baton Rouge Division customer accounting clerks simply took chase after the young lawbreaker when he interrupted their peaceful coffee break on a park bench out in the warm spring air.

They chased the boy across North Boulevard, through the Gulf States' parking lot and into the street — right into the path-



Ramona Moran, Reynelle Holladay

way of an oncoming car. The driver of the car, a recent purse-snatching victim herself, deducted what was going on from the young women's screams and she joined the chase in her car. Another passing motorist, seeing the fleeing youth pursued by two women on foot and another woman in a car, also joined in. He eventually cornered the young

INSIDE GSU

offender, who dropped the wallet and fled again. Although the young woman in the first car continued her chase, the teen disappeared near the interstate highway.

Police came to the scene and interviewed the two employees, as well as the two "good Samaritans."

And Reynelle emerged from the incident with a recovered wallet and a new outlook. "My faith in humanity has been restored," she exclaimed, referring to the assistance she and Ramona received from the passersby.

Gomez assists at delivery

When Steve Gomez' third daughter was born Dec. 18, her dad was there — just as he was with the two previous births. But this time Gomez, a communications serviceman-1st class in Beaumont, videotaped the LaMaze delivery.

Gomez reported that he began the film with the ultra sound scan.

The newest family member — Tamara Sue — weighed 10 pounds, 8½ ounces. Other family members are Susan, the mother, and daughters Beverly, 4, and Tracy, 2. Grandparents are B. V. Gomez of Groves and Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Breazeale of Orange.



Cantu transfers to engineering

When Cindy Cantu transferred to Baton Rouge engineering, her co-workers in Baton Rouge accounting showered her with farewell gifts.

The farewell party honoring Cantu was held March 18.



Baby joins Harp family

The Norman R. Harp family recently grew by one with the Dec. 14 birth of Norman R. Harp II.

Harp, who has been with GSU less than a year, reports that his son was christened on Jan. 24.

Little Norman is the first child for Harp and his wife Mary Alice. Harp is a staff accountant in Budget and Control, Corporate Section. The family lives near Beaumont.



Parent begins teaching career

Wayne Parent, the 26-year-old son of Ferris Parent, was recently appointed to the faculty of the political science department at Louisiana State University.

Parent, whose dad is a master repairman at Louisiana Station, has already begun teaching parttime at LSU and will begin fulltime this autumn as an assistant professor. He will receive his Ph.D. in political science from Indiana University this summer.

Jones named all district

Cass Jones, the son of GSU's June Jones, was named to the 22-5A all district basketball team. His mom is a section head based at the Beaumont service center.

The youth, a senior at Forest Park High School in Beaumont, was one of the five leading scorers in the district for the 1981-82 season.



Baby shower given Bourgeois

Shortly before Sharon Bourgeois of the Baton Rouge credit department left to await the arrival of her second child, she was honored with a baby shower by her co-workers.

Her little girl, named Dana, Leigh, was born March 26.

Shown with Mrs. Bourgeois (seated) are (first row, left to right) Katie Allen and Kutay Mahoney and (standing, left to right) Vicki Robillard, Vicki Aaron, Mamie Burrell, Diania Harrison and Connie Fabre.

Seay dies in Beaumont

Joyce Pintsch Seay, 52, a clerk in the T&D garage at the Beaumont service center, died Feb. 21 in her home.

She was a native and lifelong resident of Beaumont.

Survivors include her mother, Helen R. Pintsch of Beaumont; one daughter, Suzanne Proctor of Del Rio; one son, Kenneth Seay of Baton Rouge, and one brother, William H. "Bill" Pintsch of Beaumont.

ON THE MOVE

Adrio, Raymond J., Beaumont, to supervisor-building design, General Services.

Albrecht, Robert P., Silsbee, to lineman 3rd class, Electric T&D.

Allen, Marilyn S., Beaumont, to stenographer senior, Office Services.

Beaugh, John H., formerly of Church Point, to municipal affairs administrator, Lafayette Division Operations.

Beshears, Eric P., Louisiana Station, to turbine engineer, Plant Production.

Black, Norman F., Beaumont, to lead mechanical engineer, Power Plant Engineering & Design.

Blakes, Fredrick L., Willow Glen Station, to control operations foreman, Plant Production.

Bolden, Willie, Willow Glen, to master repairman, Plant Production.

Boone, DeWillia M., Beaumont, to general clerk, Accounting Services.

Bordelon, Wilery R., Louisiana Station, to master repairman, Plant Production.

Brady, Mary E., Beaumont, to personnel stenographer, Human Resources.

Braud, Kenneth P., Gonzales, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Cambre, Gregory P., Louisiana Station, to turbine engineer, Plant Production.

Carter, Homer L., Beaumont, to stores truckdriver, Materials Management.

Case, Michael S., formerly of Neches Station, to safety representative, Beaumont Human Resources.

Causey, Douglas H., Louisiana Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Clark, Lawrence E., Beaumont, to materials coordinator, Materials Management.

Cobee, Ronnie L., Port Arthur, to engineering assistant, Plant Production.

Compton, Billy R., Beaumont, to area planning engineer, System Engineering.

Condon, Janis H., Beaumont, to legal stenographer, Legal Services.

Corkern, Keith L., Willow Glen, to laboratory assistant, Plant Production.

Cormier, Harry J. Jr., Lake Charles, to energy auditor, Division Consumer Services.

Cormier, Michael J., Lake Charles, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Cummings, Maureen F., Beaumont, to general clerk, Accounting Services.

Dailey, Rodney, Orange, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Davey, Raymond T., Beaumont, to lead electrical engineer, Power Plant Engineering & Design.

Deason, Michael E., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Dempsey, Wilbur R., Willow Glen, to master repairman, Plant Production.

Dix, John H. Jr., Lewis Creek, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Duplant, Craig N., Port Arthur, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Ellis, Cheryl R., Beaumont, to stenographer, Fuel Services.

Feldschau, Charles R., Beaumont, to storekeeper, Electric T&D.

Fruge, Carl, formerly of Beaumont, to accountant, Lake Charles Division Accounting.

Fruge, Richard W., Beaumont, to project engineer, Transmission Construction.

Greer, Stuart A., Orange, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Guy, Terry L., Conroe, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Hackler, Bruce, Beaumont, to garage mechanic helper, Electric T&D.

Hall, Harold D., Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

Hanna, Charles L., Navasota, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Hebert, Jennifer A., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Real Estate.

Hebert, Mervin J., Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

Hebert, Paul W., Port Arthur, to lineman 3rd class, Electric T&D.

Henson, Richard E., Conroe, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Hite, Kenneth D., formerly of Louisiana Station, to control operations foreman, Plant Production, Willow Glen Station.

Hoefs, Richard A., Beaumont, to associate systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Hoffart, Willie J., Conroe, to utility foreman, T&D Line.

Janis, Wanda R., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Jaster, Ruth J., Beaumont, to collector, Division Accounting.

Jiminez, Juan V., Beaumont, to operator's helper, Plant Production.

Johnson, Ardes E., St. Francisville, to turbine engineer, Plant Production.

Jones, Dorothy W., Lake Charles, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.

Jones, Russell W., Nelson Coal Plant, to fuel handling foreman, Plant Production.

Jordan, Lawrence, Denham Springs, to truckdriver, Electric T&D.

Juban, Lenelle M., Baton Rouge, to coordinator-consumer accounts, Division Accounting.

King, Michael W., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

Kramer, Gary N., formerly of Nelson Coal Project, Beaumont, to director-project accounting, Beaumont Accounting Services.

Krouse, Emile S., formerly of Lafayette, to superintendent-Church Point, Division Operations.

LaBorde, Michael J., Beaumont, to system distribution engineer, System Engineering.

LaFleur, Michael J., Port Arthur, to utility foreman, T&D Line.

Landry, Jesse M., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Larriviere, Francis, Beaumont, to senior load management engineer, System Consumer Services.

Lee, Aubrey P. Jr., Willow Glen, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Lee, Wanda J., Beaumont, to tabulating machine operator, Computer Applications.

Lightfoot, Roy L. Jr., Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Lovett, Michael W., Beaumont, to turbine operator, Plant Production.

Marshall, Larry D., Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Marshall, Richard A., Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Martinez, David J., Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

McGehee, Valerie E., Willow Glen, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Miller, David L., Conroe, to district serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Miller, Lafayette Jr., Nelson Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Mitchell, Craig A., Willow Glen, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Morgan, Elizabeth, Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Moss, Jessie M., Beaumont, to general clerk, Accounting Services.

Mouton, Leslie R., Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Nauls, Theodore W., Beaumont, to turbine operator, Plant Production.

Noland, Larry D., Sabine Station, to mechanical maintenance foreman, Plant Production.

Ogden, Suzanne, Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Accounting Services.

Olson, Zachary D., Lake Charles, to communications serviceman 2nd class, Electric T&D.

Overbeck, Joseph C., Conroe, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Pantallion, Ivory C., Beaumont, to storekeeper, Materials Management.

Patin, Debra R., Baton Rouge, to energy auditor, Division Consumer Services.

Patin, Leonard J., Lafayette, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Perry, Richard M., Beaumont, to senior financial analyst, Treasury.

Picard, James B., Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Pratt, Gary L., Conroe, to lineman 4th class, Electric T&D.

Redeo, Bernard D., Conroe, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Robinson, Michael W., Lake Charles, to lineman 3rd class, Electric T&D.

Sanchez, George, Beaumont, to meterman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Sandifer, Billie M., Port Arthur, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

Severance, Kay E., Beaumont, to associate systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Shaver, Kenneth R., Conroe, to serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Sheets, Malcolm J., Willow Glen, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

Singletary, Robert A., formerly of Nelson Station, to engineer, Conroe T&D Engineering.

Sirmons, Calvin W., Woodville, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Smith, James L., Beaumont, to director-accounting cost & scheduling, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Smith, Kenneth W., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Stanton, Glen A., Port Arthur, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Stevens, Shelton W., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Talbot, Douglas R., Louisiana Station, to turbine-water plant operator, Plant Production.

Thomas, Karla B., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Risk Management.

Thomas, Matthew W., formerly of Lake Charles, to accountant, Beaumont Accounting Services.

Thompson, Jamie W., Baton Rouge, to consumer information coordinator, Division Consumer Services.

Vanzaudt, James J., Baton Rouge, to energy auditor, Division Consumer Services.

Walker, Bryan J., Louisiana Station, to second fireman, Plant Production.

Walker, Kirk A., Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Engineering Design.

Warren, Charles A., Beaumont, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

Welch, Darlene F., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Office Services.

Wesley, James, Lake Charles, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

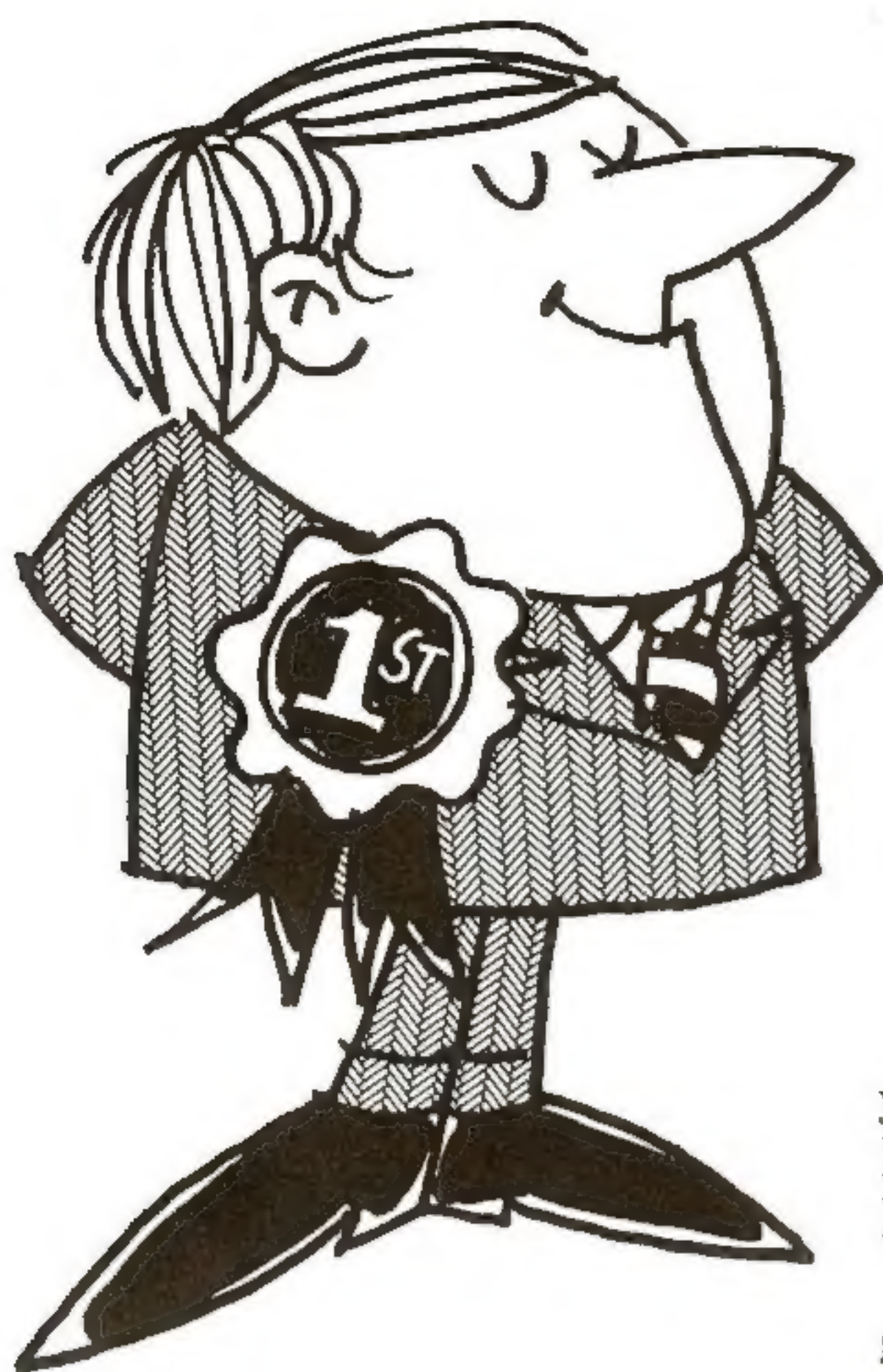
Williams, Anthony J., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-4th class, Electric T&D.

Williamson, Judge R., Nelson Coal Plant, to building & grounds foreman, Plant Production.

Winger, John F., Beaumont, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Young, Wilbert J. Jr., Mid County, to district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Zito, Judith L., Willow Glen, to storekeeper, Plant Production.



Contest Seeks Record-Holders

You may have worked with someone for 25 years and feel as if you know quite a bit about his family — but there could be something you don't know about him.

For instance, could your co-worker be a jogging fanatic who thinks it's nifty to run 12 miles to the office every morning? Or could the woman at the desk next to you have a pet boa constrictor snoozing in a cage in her garage?

The search is on to locate Gulf States employees who have out-of-the-ordinary hobbies or habits, or who may have marked up some pretty unusual achievements.

While no GSU employees may qualify for listing in the *Guinness Book of World Records*, quite a few could hold records within the company.

Another utility company — Wisconsin Electric — ran a similar contest recently with some pretty amazing results.

Now Gulf States employees and retirees will have a similar chance to brag about their accomplishments. Look over the categories listed, as well as the open-ended competition for records not mentioned.

After filling in the blank or blanks that apply to you, return

your entry to *Plain Talks*, Edison Plaza, 8th floor, no later than Friday, June 18.

Names, profiles and photographs of company champions will be printed in a later issue of *Plain Talks*. Be sure to complete the section for identifying contestants.

Longest continuous employment record at GSU: I have worked for GSU since _____.

Most locations worked for GSU: I have worked at _____ locations since joining GSU. They include _____.

Best absentee record: I once worked _____ years at GSU without missing a single day (except for vacations).

Most unusual job before joining GSU: I once worked as a _____.

Longest commute: I live _____ miles from work. It takes me _____ hours/minutes to get to work.

Shortest commute: I live only _____ feet/yards/blocks from work. It takes me _____ minutes to get to work.

Most memorable wedding day: I'll never forget my wedding day because _____.

Longest marriage: I have been married to the same person for _____ years.

Most children: I have _____ children.

Most places lived: I have lived in _____ cities or towns in _____ states or in _____ countries.

Largest fish caught: I caught a _____ pounds and ounces _____ fish in the _____ body of water.

Lowest golf score: I once shot _____ on the _____ golf course. My score was _____ strokes over par.

Highest bowling game: I once bowled a _____ game.

Most jogging miles: I have jogged _____ miles in a day/week/month/year _____.

Most blood donated: I have donated _____ pints of blood during blood drives.

Most languages: I can read, write or speak _____ languages. They are _____.

Most unusual hobby: My hobby is _____.

Most pets: I have _____ pets.

Most unusual pet: I have a _____.

Most successful weight loss effort: I once lost _____ pounds. It took me _____ weeks/months to lose the weight and I have kept it off for _____ weeks/months/years.

Special records: I may not break a record in the listed categories, but I know that I hold the record in _____.

Name:

Location:

Phone:

Job Title:

(Retirees should list their last job title, followed by the date of their retirement.)

KG&E creates special fund

Kansas Gas & Electric's "Project Deserve" has obtained \$31,000 in seed money from its shareholders, directors and employees to avert energy shut-offs for elderly and disabled persons who are unable to pay their bills.

Reported in the Feb. 22 issue of *Electrical Week*, the program also involves asking the utility's 235,000 customers to contribute \$1 per month to the fund, if possible. The request was made by way of bill stuffers.

The fund is also expected to help pay for emergency furnace repairs and for minor weatherization measures.

Cows fuel biomass system

Dairy cows will provide the fuel for California's first manure-powered biomass system, according to *The Energy Daily*.

Conversion of the wastes from about 300 of the cows into methane gas is expected to generate about \$20,000 worth of electricity annually at the Marindale Dairy in Novato.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. will buy the energy from the project, which was funded by the California Energy Commission and the Landal Institute, a non-profit farm lands preservation group. The two groups granted \$94,000 to the project, *The Energy Daily* reported.

Process aims to recover metals from fly ash

Electric utilities in the metals business?

Well, not exactly, but research underway at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) indicates that the nation has a sizable resource of aluminum, iron and various other metals currently being thrown away as waste. The

resource is coal fly ash, and a new acid leaching process under test through EPRI seems to be an economically attractive way to remove some of these metals.

Coal-fired power plants produce a great deal of fly ash — about 400,000 tons per year in a 1,000-megawatt facility. And in some cases, 30 to 35 percent of the ash may be metals that could be reclaimed. These metals are found in coal naturally, and burning the coal concentrates them in the ash.

The new EPRI process seems to be most attractive for extracting aluminum and iron from coal ash. Laboratory work carried out for EPRI by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory proved the small-scale feasibility of the leaching process for the removal of these metals, and an economic analysis performed concurrently indicated that operation of the process on a large scale might be profitable for utilities because of revenues from sale of reclaimed ores.

EPRI has completed the initial work on the extraction process and is currently planning a three-year, \$600,000 scale-up. That work should give researchers more information on the quality of metal products that can be extracted from fly ash and on the economics of operating the system on a large scale.



Mobile lab to bird-watch

A new mobile laboratory developed under an Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) contract may soon be helping

electric utility personnel develop their "bird-watching skills" while providing a direct benefit to the industry.

One objection to proposed electric transmission lines has been that they will interfere with bird flight patterns, particularly migratory flights, in their vicinity. In hearings on the subject, the utility must prove the line won't be a hindrance to birds before a right-of-way is granted.

Until now, proof has been difficult since most birds do their long-distance flying at night. Moreover, methods for quantifying bird activities in relation to power lines simply did not exist.

In response to this, EPRI and Clemson University biology professor Sidney Gauthreaux teamed up to develop an automated bird-watcher. Gauthreaux, who is an expert in bird migration patterns, combined commercially available radar, night-vision devices and computerized analysis capability into a mobile laboratory — a modified recreational vehicle. The unit is designed to track bird flight patterns in the area where it is set up. Development and testing costs are expected to total \$600,000.

The combined use of radar and night scope permits the operator to identify the number of birds, their range and altitude, and in some cases their species, even during periods of low visibility. Meanwhile, the data are stored on computer tape for later analysis.

The laboratory is now undergoing preliminary field testing in Oregon, where it is examining bird flight patterns around a 500-kilovolt power line owned by the federal Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). That agency has been studying the line's impact on birds for several years. Comparing results from the mobile laboratory with those of BPA will help researchers check the effectiveness of the EPRI unit.

COMMENTS

Bush Pens Prize-Winning Essay

A Baton Rouge Magnet High School senior, Joseph "Joe" Bush, won the employees' children's high school essay contest this spring.

Young Bush is the son of Donna Bush, a mail courier for Gulf States based in Baton Rouge. He has been selected for admission to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this fall, when he plans to begin work in an interdisciplinary course of study in astronautical, chemical and electrical engineering.

The teenager was given a \$200 savings bond for winning the Baton Rouge Division contest, then received a \$500 savings bond for winning the grand prize competition. Another Baton Rouge contestant — Russell Frith of Broadmoor High School — won the public contest. Contestants in the employee category wrote on the topic "Energy — Impact on the Future!"

The text of Bush's essay follows:

Can one imagine our world without energy? Whether it be by our body's metabolic process, or by the enormous engines of the space shuttle, energy has always been used and needed in developing ourselves and our world. Since our life will always depend on energy, it is apparent that the sources and availability of energy will have a great impact on our future!

The sun is the source of energy for our solar system. All contemporary energy sources ultimately



Joe Bush

derive their energy from the sun. Since they are all related, we should not argue over which source to use in the future. Rather, we should put our heads together and find out how economically to use each one. All have their benefits as well as their limits. We need only discover these in order to use each to our best advantage.

Our supply of petrochemicals is quickly being depleted. Basically, petrochemicals are a means of storing energy in matter. Because a lot of energy can be stored in a small space, petrochemicals are useful for transportation, where light bulk is a necessity. We will eventually run dry of petrochemical re-

sources, but through conscious conservation, they may last until an alternate source is discovered.

What we commonly call solar energy plays a most promising part in our future. Because the energy is converted directly from the ultimate source, the sun, all of the intermediate transformations due to nature are bypassed and little energy is lost. Thus we get the most use out of the least expended amount of energy. Therefore, solar energy offers us a new frontier, ranking much higher, especially as a stationary power source, than petrochemical energy.

Perhaps the best potential lies in nuclear fission and fusion, where we try to imitate the sun itself in producing energy. Fission and fusion uniquely offer direct control over energy production. With only a small amount of matter needed for a nuclear reaction to produce massive amounts of energy, it can be envisioned that nuclear power could eventually be contained in small portable packs. With this in mind, and in hopes that mankind will eradicate nuclear fears, we can see that nuclear energy will have the greatest impact on our future!

In conclusion, all energy forms have their benefits, and it is upon how wisely we use each, and not upon which we use, that our future depends. Let us all apply our own energies in properly developing the energies of our world.

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Q ■ How much punishment can a nuclear power plant take?

A. ■

Quite a lot. France's 1,200 megawatt Superphenix plant, still under construction, easily withstood an attack by five antitank rockets last January. Though four of the five Soviet-made missiles fired by the Pacifist and Ecologist Committee hit their mark, the only damage was a small hole in one wall of the concrete outer shell of the reactor building.

